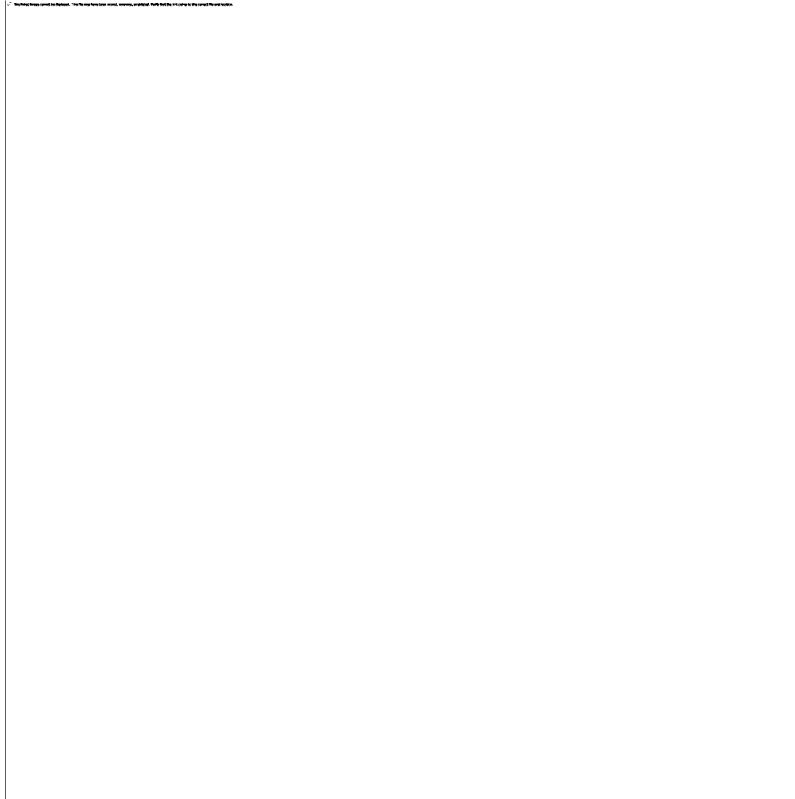
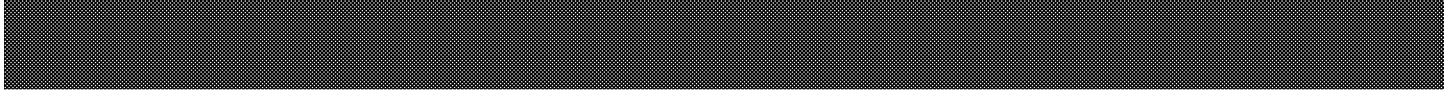


## Message

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**From:** Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]  
**Sent:** 6/7/2018 1:00:20 PM  
**To:** Woods, Clint [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc65010f5c2e48f4bc2aa050db50d198-Woods, Clint]  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy: U.S. Petroleum Exports Hit Record High of \$19.9 Billion in April



By [Jacqueline Toth](#)

## Top Stories

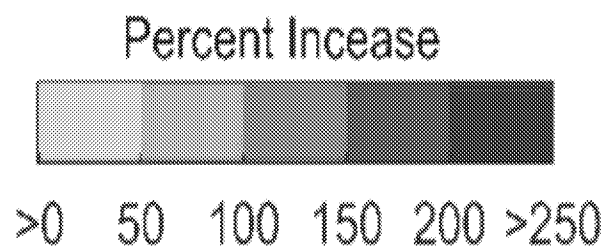
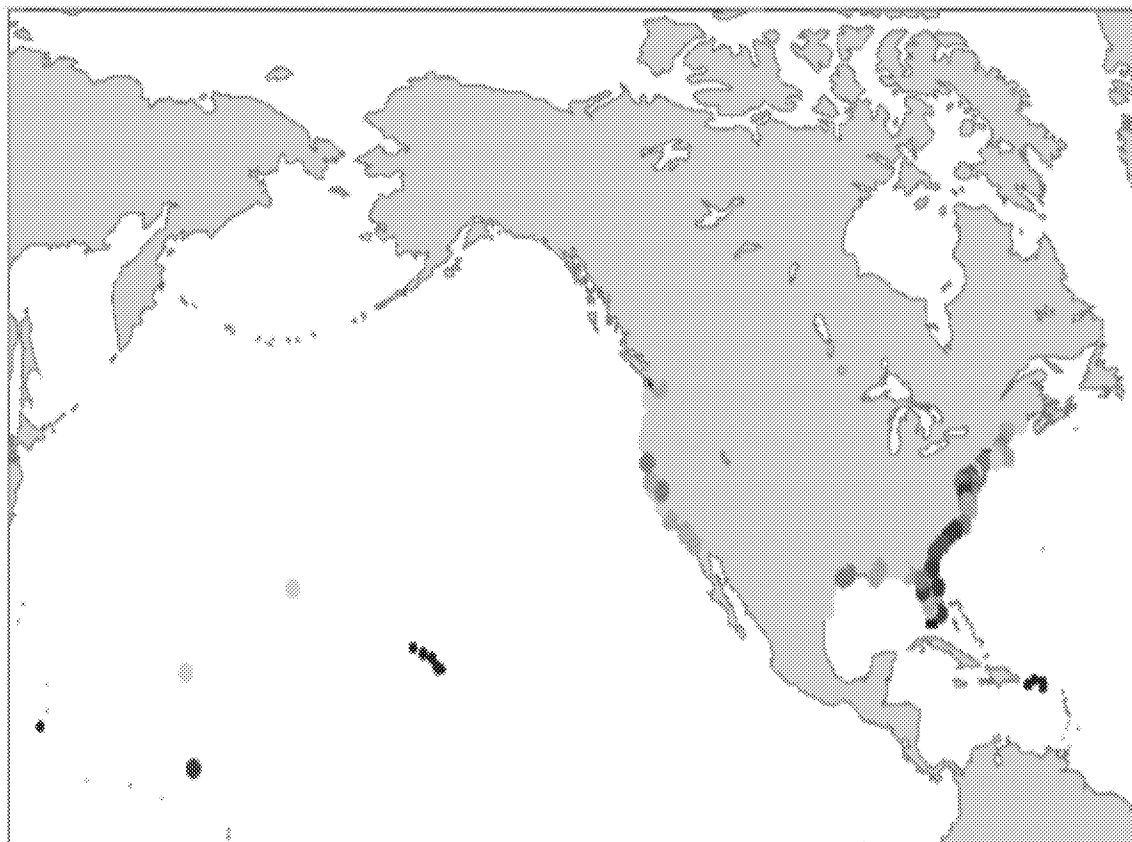
- A record \$19.9 billion in petroleum exports from the United States in April contributed to a 2.1 percent reduction in the country's trade gap that month, according to the Commerce Department. The United States is now shipping as much as four times the amount of petroleum each month as it exported a decade ago, and the increase in those exports, which started around the recession,

is boosting oil producers' earnings and protecting the U.S. economy from oil price shocks. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))

- Several Republican lawmakers suggested they are losing patience with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt after recent news reports revealed that he asked a close aide to look into buying a used mattress from the Trump Hotel and to contact Chick-fil-A about a potential franchise for his wife. One of those lawmakers, Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.), said he would not "try to defend the indefensible," but President Donald Trump, at a briefing on this year's hurricane season, reiterated his support for Pruitt and said the "EPA is doing really, really well." ([Politico](#))
- Trump's decision to impose tariffs on imported solar panels have pushed domestic renewable energy firms to cancel or freeze over \$2.5 billion in large solar installation investments, as well as thousands of jobs, according to companies, which is more than the \$1 billion in projects announced by firms that are building or expanding solar panel factories in the United States. Developer Cypress Creek Renewables LLC, for example, said it froze \$1.5 billion for about 150 projects, mostly in the Carolinas, Texas and Colorado, due to increased costs from the tariffs. ([Reuters](#))
- Coal tycoon Bob Murray, chief executive of Murray Energy Corp., showed at least six coal-related draft executive orders to the Trump administration last year, according to records released under a Freedom of Information Act request, though it did not appear that Trump signed the orders. The draft orders included language on withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement and suspending ozone and coal ash regulations. ([E&E News](#))
- The United Steelworkers, North America's largest industrial union representing refinery workers, said in a statement that Trump's decision to postpone changes to federal biofuel blending requirements "threatens the livelihood" of tens of thousands of workers. The American Petroleum Institute trade group, however, said that it was glad that the Trump administration scrapped its plan and that it would rather see "comprehensive legislative reform" of the Renewable Fuel Standard. ([Reuters](#))

## Chart Review

**b. Percent increase in High Tide Flooding since 2000**



## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### THURSDAY

Exchange Monitor event on nuclear decommissioning

7 a.m.

KPMG's 16th Annual Global Energy Conference	7 a.m.
New Energy Update conference on U.S. offshore wind	7 a.m.
World Environmental & Water Resources Congress	8:15 a.m.
Symposium on the effects of climate change on oceans	8:30 a.m.
Atlantic Council and American Council on Renewable Energy launch of REN21's Renewable Global Status Report	9 a.m.
House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee hearing on hydropower licensing	11 a.m.
House Science, Space and Technology Energy Subcommittee hearing on the electric grid of the future	1 p.m.
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace event on policymakers in an age of global disruption	2 p.m.
House Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on wildfire risk and forest health	2 p.m.

## **FRIDAY**

Exchange Monitor event on nuclear decommissioning	7 a.m.
New Energy Update conference on U.S. offshore wind	8:30 a.m.
Symposium on the effects of climate change on oceans	8:30 a.m.
United States Energy Association briefing with Kenyan Energy Minister Charles Keter	9 a.m.
Environmental and Energy Study Institute event on the state of Germany's energy transition	12 p.m.
United States Association for Energy Economics talk on renewable energy entrepreneurship	12 p.m.



## **Introducing: The Midterm Wave Watcher**

A new interactive feature showcasing a range of survey research insights related to the 2018 midterm elections.

## General

### Republicans losing patience with scandal-scarred Pruitt **Anthony Adragna and Emily Holden, Politico**

Republicans on Capitol Hill are growing frustrated with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt - and many are now publicly questioning whether he can hang on to his job amid the unending stream of scandals.

### Bob Murray drafted 6 orders on coal, climate for Trump **Hannah Northey and Benjamin Storrow, E&E News**

Coal executive Bob Murray last year presented Trump administration officials with half a dozen draft executive orders aimed at exiting the Paris climate accord and peeling back coal regulations.

### Another mess for Pruitt: Overstaying his White House welcome at lunch **Emily Holden et al., Politico**

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt loves eating at the White House mess, an exclusive U.S. Navy-run restaurant open only to White House officials, Cabinet members and other dignitaries.

### Pruitt: Chick-fil-A is a 'franchise of faith' **Miranda Green, The Hill**

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt is defending actions he took to try to help his wife secure a franchise opportunity with the fast food company Chick-fil-A, calling it a "franchise of faith."

### Democrats want a 9/11-type commission to probe Puerto Rico hurricane controversy **Christine Condon, McClatchy DC**

Democrats are eager to make the controversy over the Hurricane Maria death toll a political flashpoint this fall, telling voters they want a special commission to investigate the Trump administration's response to the disaster in the same way a similar panel investigated the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Trump praises hurricane response amid demands for Maria death toll investigation

**Lorraine Woellert and Colin Wilhelm, Politico**

President Donald Trump praised his administration's response to last year's devastating storms even as thousands of Puerto Rican evacuees face eviction from temporary shelters and the island remains partly without power nine months after Hurricane Maria.

EPA Plan for Transparency in Science Alarms Industry, Too  
**Eric Roston, Bloomberg**

Scientists are concerned that the proposal would restrict studies that rely on health records obtained with the understanding that the identities of patients be kept confidential, a practice that some conservatives label "secret science."

Major oil group launches new coalition to promote offshore drilling

**Miranda Green, The Hill**

A top U.S. oil and gas industry leader is setting its sights on expanding offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf and off the coast of mid-Atlantic states.

Oil rises as reality dawns over Venezuela's export crisis  
**Amanda Cooper, Reuters**

Oil rose on Thursday on concerns about a plunge in exports from Venezuela, although surging U.S. production kept gains in check.

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## **Oil and Natural Gas**

Record Oil Exports Help Cut U.S. Trade Gap

**Josh Mitchell and Christopher M. Matthews, The Wall Street Journal**

The U.S. exported a record amount of oil and fuel in April, helping to narrow the nation's trade gap while giving the economy a lift.

Trump's move to please farmers on biofuels reform draws refinery union ire

**Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice, Reuters**

U.S. President Donald Trump, in yielding to pressure from farming states and agreeing to suspend changes to U.S. biofuel policy is now being criticized by another important constituency, the main union for oil refinery workers.

As Fuel Prices Rise, Airlines Warn of Higher Fares  
**Martha C. White, The New York Times**

The price of jet fuel has gone up 50 percent in the past year, and airline executives are warning that they may have to raise ticket prices and cut capacity if fuel costs continue to rise.

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## Utilities and Infrastructure

LaFleur, Glick Promise a Light Touch on Changing West  
**Jason Fordney, RTO Insider**

Two top federal energy regulators told state utility commissioners that they will take a light-handed approach as the West develops new market structures, allowing flexibility and acknowledging regional differences.

Exelon CEO endorses nuke bailout, punts on leaked DOE memo  
**Gavin Bade, Utility Dive**

The CEO of the largest U.S. nuclear operator on Wednesday urged the federal government to take urgent action to halt the retirement of nuclear power plants, but stopped short of endorsing the framework for emergency action outlined in a Department of Energy memo leaked last week.

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## Renewables

Billions in U.S. solar projects shelved after Trump panel tariff  
**Nichola Groom, Reuters**

President Donald Trump's tariff on imported solar panels has led U.S. renewable energy companies to cancel or freeze investments of more than \$2.5 billion in large installation projects, along with thousands of jobs, the developers told Reuters.



## China's Solar Cutback Wiping Out Trump Bump for First Solar **Chris Martin, Bloomberg**

President Donald Trump said imposing solar tariffs would help domestic companies. But China's surprise decision to slash installations is negating those gains, and shares of U.S. manufacturers are plunging.

## PJM region and California dominate US storage via different paths

**Peter Maloney, Utility Dive**

While much of the U.S. activity surrounding energy storage has been focused on California and the PJM region, the locus of activity is expected to expand as states like New York and Massachusetts implement ambitious storage goals.

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## **Coal**

### Colorado utility plans to retire coal plants, add renewables **Dan Elliott, The Associated Press**

Colorado's largest electricity provider said Wednesday it wants to retire two coal-fired units a decade early and nearly double the share of power it gets from renewable sources.

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## **Nuclear**

### U.S. subsidies may not save some coal, nuclear plants slated for closure **Scott DiSavino, Reuters**

Several major U.S. operators of nuclear reactors and coal plants said they had not changed plans to close plants in coming years, even after the White House said it would take emergency steps to subsidize struggling operators.

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## **Climate**

### Hurricanes Are Linger Longer. That Makes Them More Dangerous. **Kendra Pierre-Louis, The New York Times**

With wind speeds that can top 180 miles per hour, hurricanes are not usually thought of as slow. Yet tropical cyclones, which include hurricanes, have grown more sluggish since the mid-20th century, researchers say. That may mean bad news for people residing in their path.

**A Wyoming Reservation Shows the New Face of Drought**  
**John Fialka, E&E News**

Perhaps the most menacing and widespread aspects of climate change are the droughts that can come with climbing temperatures.

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## **Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives**

**Zinke's 'Konichi Wa' Controversy Shows Need For Cultural National Monuments**  
**Carole Hayashino, Morning Consult**

On Memorial Day, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke appeared on Breitbart Radio, where he expressed support for President Donald Trump's border wall and defended his controversial decision to send Interior staff to the border. He also went out of his way to double-down on shocking, offensive comments he made to Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa (D-Hawaii) during a recent congressional hearing.

**Cost-Benefit Reform at the EPA**  
**The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

Barack Obama's Environmental Protection Agency jammed through an average of 565 new rules each year during the Obama Presidency, imposing the highest regulatory costs of any agency. It pulled off this regulatory spree in part by gaming cost-benefit analysis to downplay the consequences of its major environmental rules.

**Here's why Trump's new strategy to keep ailing coal and nuclear plants open makes no sense**  
**James Van Nostrand, The Conversation**

President Donald Trump recently ordered Energy Secretary Rick Perry to take "immediate steps" to stop the closure of coal and nuclear power plants.

**In Trump's power moves, it's coal first, nuclear power second**  
**Amy Harder, Axios**

President Trump is asking his administration to bolster economically struggling coal and nuclear power plants - but the concerns over coal are really driving decisions.

Trump's Coal Plan Is Bad News  
**Theodore Kupfer, National Review**

The proposal, if implemented, would force energy-grid operators across the country to buy power from these plants for a period of two years - and fulfill a key promise of Trump's to stand up for the coal industry.

Maybe Scott Pruitt isn't corrupt enough  
**Dana Milbank, The Washington Post**

Scott Pruitt: You can do better than this.

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Electric Scooters  
**Kevin Roose, The New York Times**

I wanted to hate the scooters. I really did.

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## Research Reports

A global slowdown of tropical-cyclone translation speed  
**James P. Kossin, Nature**

As the Earth's atmosphere warms, the atmospheric circulation changes. These changes vary by region and time of year, but there is evidence that anthropogenic warming causes a general weakening of summertime tropical circulation.



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